Accidents involving Indian Seamen

2542. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken note of spate of disappearances and fatal accidents involving Indian Seamen abroad foreign ships;

(b) whether there are more than 60,000 Indians working abroad foreign flag vessels who are being exploited by fly-by night shiplines;

(c) whether there is any Maritime guideline in force for the safety and welfare of Indian seamen; and

(d) if not, within what time Government are likely to frame one?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of Indian seafarers working on foreign flag vessels is estimated to be around 50,000. Indian Maritime Administration is not controlling employment of Indian seafarers on foreign flag vessels. Moreover, seafaring activity is regulated by International Laws and Conventions. As such, it would not be desirable to comment on the service conditions of Indian seafarers on board foreign flag vessels.

(c) and (d) The safety and welfare of Indian seamen on board the foreign flag vessels are governed by the Merchant Shipping Laws, IMO/ ILO Conventions etc. as applicable to the flag country. However, the Director General of Shipping is in the process of preparation of a strategy for ensuring welfare of Indian seafarers on board foreign flag ships. It may be difficult to prescribe the specific time-frame.

Capacity of major ports

2543. DR. K. MALAISAMY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of major ports in India with their rated capacity and their utilized capacity for the last three years indicating the reasons for the ports concerned running below the rated capacity and the measures taken to run it to its optimal capacity;